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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph starting at Page 1, line 31 with the following paragraph:

According to one scheme, a fixed priority may be assigned to the processor and one or more of the DMA machines. A task received from the highest-priority processor or DMA machine may be completed before other tasks. If all DMA machines are assigned a higher priority than the processor, the tasks of all the DMA machines are completed before any processor tasks. In such a system, a processor task will eventually fail to be completed within an allotted time. Alternatively, if the processor is assigned a higher priority than the DMA machines, all the processor tasks are always completed before any tasks of the DMA machines. In such a system, one or more DMA machines' tasks will eventually fail to be completed within the allotted time. For example, one or more of the DMA machines may fail to load data into the subsystem of the processor before execution of the instructions that require the data.